

December 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to share with you some positive news from the academy. Following an inspection by Ofsted at the beginning of November, I am pleased to report that the academy has been removed from the serious weaknesses category after receiving a 'requires improvement' judgement across all areas, as well as a good judgement for our sixth form provision.

The inspectors spent two days at the academy, observing over 40 lessons and speaking with students, staff and Governors. Standards were found to be improving in all areas, including teaching, behaviour, achievement and leadership, with a number of aspects of academy life described as good, lots of evidence of a cohesive atmosphere and behaviour described as significantly improved. Leadership at the academy was described as taking 'effective steps to improve teaching' and the academy's work to keep students safe and secure as good. The Governing body were singled out for being effective and contributing to the improvement in student experiences in classrooms and in achievement outcomes.

The academy sixth form was given lots of praise. Inspectors reported that, 'The quality of teaching has improved and is now good. Expectations of what students can achieve are high. They are challenged to achieve their best. This is reflected in students' positive attitudes to learning and good behaviour'

Whilst we know that we still have lots of work to do, I hope that you agree with me that this is a fantastic result for us all. We are very proud of the inspection report and the progress that the academy has made in recent times and I am really keen to continue that improvement along with everyone associated with the academy.

The Ofsted report can be downloaded at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/135969> and is also on our website

This is also a great opportunity to introduce myself as the new Principal of the South Leeds Academy. Whilst I have been working at South Leeds since January 2013, I was appointed as Principal after a period of time acting in the role. I would like to say thank you to all of the students, the staff, parents and the Governing body for making me feel very welcome in my new post.



I was born in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear and now live with my wife and two teenage daughters in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. I studied at Trinity University in Leeds from 1991-1995 and lived in Leeds for over 10 years, so I know the area well. My first teaching job was at Horbury School in Wakefield and I have also worked in Dewsbury at Thornhill Academy (famous for the TV programme Educating Yorkshire) and at two successful Barnsley schools, Royston High and Darton College, where I held senior positions from 2004. My experience in all of these schools has helped me to understand the importance of high standards in education and has forged my belief that excellent relationships and brilliant teaching make a school a real community. I am passionate about putting the academy at the heart of this community, with a very enthusiastic and hard-working staff. I believe in high aspiration and expectations and expect all of our students to 'kiss the South Leeds badge'.

One key area of academy development is to improve our links with you as parents/carers. I want to create an academy that you feel comfortable to approach, have confidence in, and send your children to in the knowledge that they are receiving a good education in a safe environment. You will always be welcome to make an appointment to come into the academy to meet with me or other teachers regarding the education of your child.

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**Together we are stronger...**

I look forward to working with you over the coming years to make The South Leeds Academy a fantastic place.

We are working hard to improve communication – you can keep up to date with the latest developments on our website, [www.tsla.org.uk](http://www.tsla.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter @T\_S\_L\_A

With very best wishes

Marc Doyle  
Principal  
TSLA



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